

into a condition of delirium." Said Leo Frank was nervous. Frank trembled facing the dead body of Mary Phagan. Frank was not cool like an innocent man.

Next day the whole front page was taken up with a story of how Frank had once been caught in a woods with a little girl. The human nut who had witnessed it posed for his picture printed in the Georgian. The two older newspapers, Journal and Constitution, proved the story a lie. Hearst's Georgian admitted two days afterward it was a lie—in small type on an inside page.

Next on the front page in big type was an affidavit by a sporting woman named Formaby. She swore Frank phoned her the day of the murder to keep a room for him at her house because he had a little girl. The woman afterward took back the story.

Hearst stories said Frank was a rich Jew running after Gentile girls; his wife, ready for divorce, sore at her husband, didn't go to see him after his arrest for one week. All these proven lies at trial.

With big crowds in Atlanta set on a hair-trigger, ready for anything, talking of lynching, Hearst's Georgian flashed this story: On the night of the murder of Mary Phagan Frank would not sleep with his wife, slept on the floor; told his wife he was going to kill himself because he had killed a girl. This kicked up some excitement in Atlanta. And prejudice. "Damn the Jew" became a regular street chorus. Other papers showed the story a fake. Hearst's Georgian corrected it — in small type, inside page.

Another front page story: Reporter for Hearst's Georgian finds a boy who says he met Mary Phagan on street car the day of the murder and she told him she was going to office of Leo Frank, but was afraid of him because he had made advances to her. Story proven false. Boy since then sent to state reform school for theft.

A bloody shirt, a tangle of hair on a lathe in Frank's pencil factory and alleged to be Mary Phagan's, and a splash of red on the floor all were made excuses for Hearst extras and claims of "scoops." Later all these shown to be "plants." City physician at trial testified hair not Mary Phagan's. The "blood" was red paint. The "bloody shirt" was never introduced into evidence.

Atlanta was getting wild. The chorus of "Damn the Jew" was rising. They were ready to believe anything about the pencil manufacturer. Some big Hearst headlines: "We Have Sufficient Evidence to Convict Frank, Say Detectives," "Leo Frank on the Grill," "Evidence Against Frank Conclusive, Say Police," "Police Say They Have Frank in Net," "Dorsey Adds Startling Evidence of Frank's Guilt," "Dorsey Says Frank Is Fast in the Net."

During 30-day trial of Frank, Hearst had extras out every day. Each day an editor "analyzed" testimony and shot it full of bitterness against Frank. Because of wild mobs two other papers asked Judge Roan to have verdict delayed from Saturday till Monday. Both Frank and Judge Roan threatened with lynching. Governor had militia ready under arms, ready for call. Frank and his lawyers warned by judge not to come to court.

And Hearst's Georgian on that day put out 14 extra editions. They were eaten up. It was like feeding a fire with gasoline.

Frank was convicted, sentenced to be hanged. Judge Roan stated from the bench he was "not convinced" of Frank's guilt. Atlanta Journal called it legal murder and asked new trial. All the time that a wide clamor was on for fair play for Frank, Hearst's Georgian stood pat for "hanging the Jew."

Foster Coates, managing editor for Hearst, dropped dead on the street one day. Why? Newspaper men say